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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Information Handling Committee

FROM: Clarus W. Rice
Director of Central Reference

SUBJECT: RECON GUARD Prototype Evaluation

REFERENCES: A. Memo for D/OCR and D/ODP fm D/OS, dtd 20 July 84,
Subj: Testing of the RECON GUARD Prototype,
OSO-4-5280, (ODP-84-1106)

B. MFR fm D/OCR, dtd 18 July 84, Subj:
Evaluation of RECON GUARD

C. Memo for Multiple Addressees fm [REDACTED]
ORD, dtd 18 July 84, Subj: RECON/GUARD Program
Status Report, ORD-0832-84, (ODP-84-1148)

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1. The cited references detail the successful testing of the RECON GUARD Prototype System. In summary, the primary objective of the GUARD prototype evaluation was to prove or disprove the hardware architectural design principles for the secure release of information from a host computer. The research approach was to place the GUARD in the worst possible environment. To accomplish this goal, simulators were built for the data base (RECON) and network (COINS) environments. With this configuration, any combination of errors could be injected by the test teams to defeat the GUARD. The actual tests conducted by the teams are included in the references and show that the GUARD Prototype always acted securely.

2. The success of the GUARD Prototype System should be kept in perspective by carefully reviewing the caveats expressed in the references. As examples, the limited size of test database (2000 records); data throughput issues; and, security issues on the data

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entry side of the GUARD and the data release side. References A and B underscore the requirement for retesting any Operational GUARD System and the network security issues.

3. At this point, I believe that the Information Handling Committee can expect that an Operational Guard System, built on the same hardware architectural principles, will also prove secure when tested. Therefore, I make the following recommendations to the Committee:

- The IHC should review & prioritize the potential Intelligence Community applications which require this capability to be implemented.
- The IHC should select the most appropriate application. Further, the Committee should obtain the approvals and the resources needed to make the application operational for Community use.
- The IHC should continue monitoring the effort through the more critical phases.
- The IHC should initiate actions to evaluate network security for the selected application. Further, resources should be provided for any necessary network upgrades.

4. As suggested by the RECON GUARD Project Manager, actions have been initiated to return the Prototype System to the contractor's facilities and the COINS equipment to the COINS PMO. If you have any questions, please call

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